CLAIMS

1.   A guidance route search device, the device comprising:

route point specifying means for specifying multiple route points to which a user is to be guided before reaching a destination point; and

selecting means for selecting a guidance schedule in which the multiple route points are passed through by preset time of arrival at the destination point and in which the staying time at multiple route points is the longest, the staying time at the route points being within the maximum staying time preset for the route points.

2.   A guidance route search device, the device comprising:

route point specifying means for specifying multiple route points to which a user is to be guided before reaching a destination point;

temporary determination means for determining staying time periods at multiple route points based on staying time prespecified for each route point;

determination means for making determination about a guidance schedule in which the multiple route points are passed through, based on the staying time periods at the multiple route points and traveling time among the route points; and

adjustment means for adjusting the staying time at least at one route point in response to the result

of determination by the determination means.

3. The guidance route search device according to claim 2, wherein

the determination means operates to determine whether the guidance schedule in which the multiple route points are passed through is possible or not; and

if it is determined by the determination means that the guidance schedule in which the multiple route points are passed through is not possible, the adjustment means operates to reduce the staying time at least at one route point.

4. The guidance route search device according to claim 3, wherein

the prespecified staying time is specified within the range of a trip time period from departure time of a trip for dropping into the multiple route points to time of arrival at a destination point.

5. The guidance route search device according to claim 2, wherein

the prespecified staying time is specified within a range of a trip time period from departure time of a trip for dropping into the multiple route points to arrival time;

the determination means operates to determine whether there is spare time other than the staying time at the route points and the traveling time among

the route points within the range of the trip time period; and

if it is determined by the determination means that there is spare time, the adjustment means
5 operates to add a part or all of the spare time to the staying time at least at one route point.

6. The guidance route search device according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the device further
10 comprising:

display means for displaying the guidance schedule for the multiple route points adjusted by the adjustment means;

input means to be operated in order to change
15 the guidance schedule displayed on the display means; and

change means for changing the guidance schedule in response to a change operation with the input means and causing the display means to display the changed
20 guidance schedule.

7. The guidance route search device according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein

time to start staying and/or the staying time
25 prespecified for each route point is specified based on at least one among the route point, type of the route point, user, utilization group, time of year for utilization and user age.

30 8. A guidance route search method, the method

comprising the steps of:

specifying multiple route points to which a user is to be guided before reaching a destination point, and

5   selecting a guidance schedule in which the multiple route points are passed through by preset time of arrival at the destination point and in which the staying time at multiple route points is the longest, the staying time at the route points being

10   within the maximum staying time preset for the route points.

9.   A guidance route search method, the method comprising the steps of:

15   specifying multiple route points to which a user is to be guided before reaching a destination point;

determining staying time periods at multiple route points based on staying time prespecified for each route point;

20   making determination about a guidance schedule in which the multiple route points are passed through, based on the staying time periods at the multiple route points and traveling time among the route points; and

25   adjusting the staying time at least at one route point in response to the result of determination by the step of performing determination.

10. A computer program for causing a computer to

30   execute the steps of:

specifying multiple route points to which a user is to be guided before reaching a destination point; and

selecting a guidance schedule in which the multiple route points are passed through by preset time of arrival at the destination point and in which the staying time at multiple route points is the longest, the staying time at the route points being within the maximum staying time preset for the route points.

11. A computer program for causing a computer to execute the steps of:

specifying multiple route points to which a user is to be guided before reaching a destination point;

determining staying time periods at multiple route points based on staying time prespecified for each route point;

making determination about a guidance schedule in which the multiple route points are passed through, based on the staying time periods at the multiple route points and traveling time among the route points; and

adjusting the staying time at least at one route point in response to the result of determination by the step of performing determination.